

Hist 384: History of Chinese Medicine

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Course description:

This discussion seminar will explore the nearly three thousand year history of medicine in China. We will begin with an overview of the study of medicine generally and then move on to cover the basic foundations of Chinese medicine in ancient science and philosophy. The remaining classes will systematically introduce students to the most important periods in Chinese medical history, the major theories concerning health and disease, and the primary tools that Chinese physicians have used over time to combat illness. We will conclude the course with a consideration of traditional medicine as practiced in China and the West today. There are no prerequisites for this class, although prior coursework in East Asian Studies and/or history of medicine is advantageous.

Required texts: (all on sale at the University Bookstore)

1. Ted Kaptchuk, *The Web That Has No Weaver: Understanding Chinese Medicine* (1983)
2. Paul Unschuld, *Medicine in China: A History of Ideas* (1985)
3. E-reserve readings

[Resources for research papers](#)

Course Requirements: (To pass this course, you must complete all course requirements)

1. Attendance: Regular attendance is required. If you must miss a class, please talk to me in person well in advance. Absence from class will only be excused for extraordinary reasons or for illness.

2. Papers: A short paper (4-5 pages typed) on an assigned topic is due on Oct. 23rd. Your main written assignment for the class is a 10-15 page research paper. You may choose your own topic, as long as it pertains to the history of Chinese medicine or its practice in either contemporary China or North America. A topic proposal of 1-2 pages typed is due Sept. 25th. An outline and bibliography of at least 3 appropriate books and several relevant articles (not including internet sources, the use of which for research papers is generally discouraged) is due on Oct. 16th. The final version of your paper is due in my office mailbox on December 14th no later than 10:00 AM. The research paper, including proposal, outline, bibliography, and final version, is worth a total of 40% of your final grade.

Late paper policy

Papers are due at the beginning of class. Papers turned in after class will count as late, and I will deduct 0.3 from your paper grade for each day that it is late. If you turn in your paper outside of class time, please bring it to the Eaton Hall office and put it in my mail box. Please do not slide it under my door. I do not accept papers that are more than one week late, nor will I accept papers on computer disks or e-mailed papers.

3. Oral Presentation: On either of the last two classes of the semester, you are required to give an oral presentation of approximately 10-15 minutes in length on the topic of your research paper. The Oral Presentation is worth 20% of your final grade.
4. Final Exam: The final exam for this class is a 30-minute oral exam. Details about the questions covered on the exam and suggestions on how to prepare for it will be given in class. This will be worth 20% of your final grade
5. Participation: Your participation in class discussions is critical to your success in this class. Not everyone has a gift for speaking in front of others, but I expect each of you to come to class not only having read and thought about the assigned readings but also prepared to discuss the issues raised therein. Your thoughtful comments, critiques, and questions are all welcome. In addition, you will be asked at least four or five times to serve as facilitator for class discussion. This job requires you to: 1) do a bit more thinking and preparation about the assigned readings; 2) read one extra secondary source article and prepare a 1-2 page summary of its content and main argument; 3) meet with me before class so that we can mutually plan for the discussion; and 4) assist in the running of class discussion by posing questions to your classmates and offering your own views on the readings. Overall, your participation in this class is worth the remaining 20% of your grade.

Course Schedule:

**Note: readings before the asterisks
 (*****) are required everyone;
 those after the asterisks are required for
 class facilitators only and are optional for
 everyone else. Readings are
 subject to change, so
 consult this syllabus on the
 web regularly. Please
 contact me immediately by
[email](#) or phone (x5429) if
 you cannot locate any of the
 e-reserve readings on the
[library's reserve readings
 webpage.](#)**

1	Tu	Aug 28	Orientation: Studying the History of Medicine		
2	Th	Aug	Chinese Medicine	Discussion of	Arthur Kleinman. "What is Specific to Western Me

		30	and Western Medicine: Drawing Distinctions and Making Comparisons	Kleinman and Bray	Porter, eds., <i>Companion Encyclopedia of the History of Medicine</i> (Routledge, 1993), pp. 15-23 Francesca Bray, "Chinese Medicine," in Bynum and Porter, eds., <i>Companion Encyclopedia of the History of Medicine</i> , pp. 728-5
3	Tu	Sep 4	Major theoretical challenges and assumptions	Further discussion of Kleinman's "What is Specific to Western Medicine" article, the Bray article on Chinese Medicine, and today's assigned article by Sivin	N. Sivin, "Why the Scientific Revolution did not take place in China," in E. Mendelsohn, ed. <i>Transformation and Tradition in Chinese History</i> (Cambridge Univ. Press, 1984), pp. 531-549 ***** N. Sivin, "The History of Chinese Medicine: Now and Then," <i>Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies</i> (Winter 1998), 731-754
4	Th	Sep 6	Yin-yang, Five Phases, and the ancient foundations of Traditional Chinese Medicine	Discussion of assigned readings Class facilitators: Hayley (Sivin) Adam (Nutton)	Unschuld, chs. 1 and 2 (skim) Unschuld, ch. 3, pp. 51-66 Kaptchuk, ch 1 and appendix H (pp. 343-354) ***** N. Sivin, "Science and Medicine in Chinese History," in <i>China</i> (Berkeley: Univ. of CA Press, 1990), pp. 16-31 "Chinese Sciences: Qualitative") V. Nutton, "Humoralism" in Bynum and Porter, <i>Companion Encyclopedia of the History of Medicine</i> , pp. 281-291
5	Tu	Sep 11	Qi and "Systematic Correspondences"	Discussion of assigned readings Film: "The Mystery of Qi" Class facilitators: Martin (Sivin) Kate (Helms)	Kaptchuk, ch. 2 Unschuld, ch. 3, pp. 67-91 ***** N. Sivin, <i>Traditional Medicine in Contemporary China</i> (Cambridge: Univ. Press, 1987), pp. 43-94, especially the sections on Ch'i, Yin-yang, and the Five Phases Joseph Helms, <i>Acupuncture Energetics: A Clinical Approach</i> (Berkeley: Univ. of CA Press, 1990), pp. 1-10 "An Overview of Acupuncture Paradigms" pp. 71-80
6	Th	Sep 13	Visualizing the Chinese Body (Anatomy and Physiology of the	Discussion of assigned readings Class facilitator: Cheryl	Kaptchuk, chs. 3 (all) and 4 (pp. 77-83) ***** Shigehisa Kuriyama, "Visual Knowledge in Classical Chinese Medicine," in S. K. Bates, ed., <i>Knowledge and the Scholarly Medical Tradition</i> (Cambridge: Univ. Press, 1997), pp. 1-10

			healthy body) [This class has been moved to 9/18]	(Kuriyama)	
7	Tu	Sep 18	The <i>Yellow Emperor's Inner Canon</i> : Medical Classics and the problem of translation [This class has been deleted from the syllabus; see 9/13 for reading]		Maoshing Ni, tr. <i>The Yellow Emperor's Classic of Internal Medicine</i> (Shambala, 1995), pp. 97-109 Ilza Veith, tr. <i>The Yellow Emperor's Classic of Medicine</i> (Shambala, 1995), pp. 1-12 ***** Choose one more chapter from the <i>Neijing</i> (Veith trans.)
8	Th	Sep 20	Dis-ease, the Roots of Disease, and Disease Prevention	Guest Speaker: Dr. CT Holman, L.Ac. Demonstration of Qigong (wear loose-fitting clothing) Discussion of assigned reading Class facilitator: Eddie	Kaptchuk, ch. 5 ***** Andrew Wear, "The History of Personal Hygiene" in <i>Encyclopedia of the History of Medicine</i> , pp. 1283-1290
9	Tu	Sep 25	The Clinical Examination	Research paper proposal due Guest Speaker: Dr. CT Holman	Kaptchuk, ch. 6 J. Farquhar, "The Clinical Encounter Observed," in <i>The Clinical Encounter in Chinese Medicine</i> (Boulder: Westview Press, 1995), pp. 1-12
10	Th	Sep 27	Disease Patterns in Chinese Medicine	Meet in Hatfield Library 2nd floor instruction room Library session on researching	Kaptchuk, chs. 7 and 8

				the history of Chinese Medicine	
11	Tu	Oct 2	Acupuncture & Moxibustion	Guest Speaker: Dr. Louisa Silva, M.D.	Unschuld, pp. 92-100 Kaptchuk, ch. 4, pp. 84-107 (closely study the meridian lines and the corresponding explanatory text)
12	Th	Oct 4	Daoism, Alchemy, and the "Tao of Sex"	Class facilitators: Kate (Harper)	Unschuld, ch. 4 Ishihara and Levy, trs., <i>The Tao of Sex</i> (Yokohama: Sophia University Press, 1987) ***** D. Harper, "Sexual Arts of Ancient China" <i>Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies</i> (1987), 539-593
13	Tu	Oct 9	Cultural Constructions of Madness and Mental Illness	Class facilitators: Adam (Shapiro) Eddie (Diamant)	Vivien Ng, "Madness in Chinese Culture," in <i>Madness in Chinese Culture</i> (Norman, OK: University of OK Press, 1990), pp. 2-11 Xu Dachun (Hsu Ta-ch'un), "On the Causation of Insanity," in Unschuld, tr. <i>Forgotten Traditions of Ancient China</i> (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998), pp. 130-131 [from a medical treatise written in the mid-1700s] ***** Hugh Shapiro, "The View from a Chinese Asylum: A Study of the Peking" (Harvard Ph.D. diss., 1995), ch. 4 "Manufacturing Madness" N. Diamant, "Of Asylums, Hospitals and Prisons: The Evolution of Mental Institutions in China, 1895-1935" (unpubl. ms)
14	Th	Oct 11	Taiji and Health	Guest Speaker: Fuzhong Li	Click here for the short essay topic .
15	Tu	Oct 16	Epidemics and the Social Responses to Medical Crises in China	Class facilitators: Eddie (Hanson)	P. Katz, "Epidemics and Responses to them" in <i>Disasters and Epidemics</i> (SUNY Press, 1995), pp. 39-76 ***** M. Hanson, "External Chaos, Internal Disorder: China's Responses to Epidemics" (unpubl. ms)
16	Th	Oct 18	NO CLASS		
17	Tu	Oct 23	Chinese medicine on the web: sorting out the good, the bad, and the ugly	Essay due today Meet in Hatfield Library 2nd floor instruction room Research paper	Internet assignment: Browse the web and find one source relating to Chinese medicine. Come to class with research notes.

				outline and bibliography due today	
18	Th	Oct 25	NO CLASS		
19	Tu	Oct 30	Female bodies and women's medicine in Chinese culture	Class facilitators: Hayley (Furth) Cheryl (Bray)	<p>C. Furth, "Blood, Body and Gender: Medical Imag China, 1600-1850," <i>Chinese Science</i> 7 (1986), 43-6 *****</p> <p>C. Furth, "The Development of Fuke in the Song D <i>Gender in China's Medical History, 960-1665</i> (Ber</p> <p>F. Bray, "Meanings of Motherhood" in <i>Technology</i> (read <u>either</u> ch. 7 "Medical History and Gender His Medicine and the Dual Nature of Fertility")</p>
20	Th	Nov 1	Medical pluralism in Traditional China	Class facilitator Martin	<p>N. Sivin, "Social Relations of Curing in Traditional Considerations" <i>Nihon ishigaku zasshi</i> 23 (1977), 5 *****</p> <p>Norman Gevitz, "Unorthodox Medical Theories" in <i>Encyclopedia of the History of Medicine</i>, pp. 603-6</p>
21	Tu	Nov 6	Medical pluralism II: "Unorthodox Medicine"	Class facilitator Hayley	<p>Yi-li wu, "The Bamboo Grove Monastery and Popu <i>Late Imperial China</i> 21:1 (June 2000), pp. 41-76 *****</p> <p>C. Cullen, "Patients and Healers in Late Imperial C Jinpingmei" <i>History of Science</i> 31 (1993), 99-150</p>
22	Th	Nov 8	Medical pluralism III: "Family and Folk Medicine"	Class facilitator Kate	<p>A. Kleinmann, "Family-Based Popular Health Care <i>Context of Culture</i> (Berkeley: UC Press, 1980), pp. *****</p> <p>Francoise Loux, "Folk Medicine" in Bynum and Po <i>the History of Medicine</i>, pp. 661-673</p>
23	Tu	Nov 13	Medical pluralism IV: Spiritual healing, from within and without	<p>Film: "Healing from Within" (excerpt)</p> <p>Class facilitator Adam</p>	<p>A. Kleinmann, "Patients and Healers: Transactions Clinical Realities; Part 1: Sacred Folk Healer-Client <i>Healers in the Context of Culture</i>, pp. 203-258 *****</p> <p>Roy Porter, "Religion and Medicine" in Bynum and <i>of the History of Medicine</i>, pp. 1449-1465</p>
24	Th	Nov 15	Christian medical missionaries and the cross-cultural transmission of medicine	Class facilitator Cheryl	<p>Paul Howard, "Curing the Addict: Medical Mission Opium, 1836-1906" in "Opium Smoking in Qing C Problem, 1729-1906"</p> <p>Unschuld, ch. 9 *****</p>

					Bridie Andrews, "Tuberculosis and the Assimilation of Chinese Medicine in 1937" <i>Journal for the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences</i> 62:3 (1997), 311-327
25	Tu	Nov 20	Politics of Medicine in 20th c. China	Research progress reports today Class facilitator Martin	G. Henderson, "Issues in the Modernization of Medicine in China," in G. Henderson and Merle Goldman, <i>Science and Technology in Post-Revolutionary China</i> (Council on East Asian Studies, 1989), 199-222 ***** H. Shapiro, "The Puzzle of Spermatorrhea in Republican China," <i>Journal of Modern Chinese Studies</i> (1998), 551-596
26	Th	Nov 22	NO CLASS	THANKSGIVING	
27	Tu	Nov 27	Medicine in the PRC today	Film: "To Taste a Thousand Herbs"	J. Farquhar, "Re-Writing Traditional Medicine in Post-Revolutionary China," in <i>Knowledge and the Scholarly Medical Traditions</i> (Cambridge, 1998), 276
28	Th	Nov 29	Qigong: the art and science of using the vital force	Film: "Qigong: Ancient Chinese Healing for the 21st Century"	Kunio Miura, "The Revival of Qi: Qigong in Contemporary China," in <i>Taoist Meditation and Longevity Techniques</i> (Ann Arbor, 1989), pp. 331-362 Falungong website http://www.falundafa.org/ See also http://www.religioustolerance.org/falungong http://www2.kenyon.edu/depts/religion/fac/Adler/r.htm ***** Jian Xu, "Body, Discourse, and the Cultural Politics of Qigong" <i>Journal of Asian Studies</i> 58:4 (1999), 961-986 NYT articles on Falungong
29	Tu	Dec 4	Presentations	Eduard Baba Adam Wymer Cheryl Taylor	
30	Th	Dec 6	Presentations	Kate Grenier Hayley Boston Martin Tuttle	

Final Paper due December 14th, 10:00 AM or earlier. See course requirements for late paper policy.